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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

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PROGRAM Jack Anderson STATION WEAM Radio
Mutual Network

DATE February 17, 1982 9:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Ayatollah Khomeini

JACK ANDERSON: Ayatollah Khomeini still rules Iran with an iron hand but the fundamentalist leader may be on his death bed.

An urgent report from the CIA warns that Khomeini is near death. I've seen the secret report that was submitted to the National Security Council. It is an intelligence estimate that declares flatly, I am quoting, the agency doesn't know how Khomeini survives.

Now let me caution that three similar reports have appeared in the last 18 months.

The CIA meanwhile isn't taking any chances. It wants to be prepared as possible in case Khomeini passes away. Other agencies, including the French, think the CIA should wait until Khomeini is dead before making any moves in Iran.